

Specialized Information FAQs

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Who is the “artist”?

For FACTOR, an “artist” is one or more persons performing as a musical group or band. An artist is engaged in the development of their own music career and has significant control over their creative product and brand identity. The artist is the person or group that is the main focus of the marketing, promotion and career development. In hip hop, the artist is typically the rapper or emcee, or a group of rappers performing as a group.

Is a composer an artist?

Yes. A songwriter falls under the heading of 'composer' since he/she writes new music whether lyrically or musically.

Is a conductor an artist?

No. The primary responsibilities of the conductor are to unify performers, set the tempo, execute clear preparations and beats, listen critically and shape the sound of the ensemble, and to control the interpretation and pacing of the music.

Can a producer be the artist?

FACTOR will consider a producer to be an artist, if that producer is the main person creating, performing and releasing the music, and is in charge of making the creative decisions about the music, without giving the main or key credit to another performer.

Can a DJ be the artist?

A DJ who primarily spins and mixes other people’s music cannot be the artist in a FACTOR application.

A turntablist can be the artist, as long as the sound recording or performance is marketed as being created and performed by that turntablist, rather than the turntablist being “featured” on the side.

Can the featured vocalist be the artist?

A featured vocalist, including a top line vocalist or guest rapper, who is a guest on another artist’s track is not “the artist” for FACTOR’s purposes. Please note that if your featured artist is not Canadian, you will need to get FACTOR’s approval in advance if you intend to claim the costs to FACTOR.

Is a choir leader who isn't a member of the choir an artist?

No. A choir director is someone who conducts and leads a choir. They ensure that all choir members attend rehearsals and that they will be at their very best when performing. A choir director usually has a background in conducting, harmony and vocal production, music theory, or teaching.

How do I set up an artist profile and artist members for a choir or orchestra?

In the Artist Profile, list the principal conductor or artistic director as the artist member, and upload their proof of citizenship. Include a list of the choir or orchestra members and their citizenship status in the Artist Members section. proof of citizenship or permanent residency does not need to be uploaded unless they are permanent members. Permanent members should also be listed as artist members within the profile.

If your choir or orchestra is traveling on a tour or showcase, the members not already listed in the Artist Profile will need to be added as Additional Eligible Travelers in your application, for sound recording projects, they should be classified as hired musicians.

In the case of an orchestra featuring no principal artist, the orchestra must be based in Canada.

When should an artist select the Specialized genre?

FACTOR's primary genres are [listed here](#). Choose the "Specialized" genre if none of the other options apply.

What kinds of sound recording projects are eligible for FACTOR support?

FACTOR supports different kinds of sound recordings in different programs.

In the Artist Development program, we will support the production of one or more tracks.

In Juried Sound Recording, Comprehensive Artist, and Comprehensive Music Company, we will support the creation of a full-length album. An album means at least six tracks or 20 minutes of music. The album must be by one artist, or it can be a collaboration of two or more artists working as a group, but it cannot be a compilation of different artists. An album can have featured and guest performers along with the artist who is releasing the recording.

The tracks have to be original "new releases"; they cannot have been released already. The music and lyrics must be at least 50% composed by Canadians, and if not in English, the lyrics cannot be more than 50% in French (they can be in any language other than French). The album does not have to be one complete album package – it could be a collection of singles or EPs – as long as it equates to at least six tracks or 20 minutes of music that will be released over a one-year period.

"Covers" of classics, or of someone else's previously released track, might be acceptable, but only in exceptional circumstances. You must contact FACTOR for permission.

Does it matter who controls the rights to the sound recording outside of Canada?

A Canadian label or Canadian artist must control the Canadian commercial release rights and exclusive Canadian exploitation rights to the sound recording. You can license the album to a non-Canadian label for rest-of-world rights, excluding Canada.

Are theatrical productions, cast recordings or soundtracks eligible for FACTOR support?

Theatrical productions and cast recordings are not eligible. Soundtrack albums are eligible if they promote the artist, not the movie ("Movie Soundtrack by This Artist" would be eligible, but not "Movie Soundtrack" with no mention of the artist).

Is dub poetry eligible for FACTOR support?

Yes, if it is set to music. In that case the dub poet would be the artist.

Are mixtapes eligible for FACTOR support?

If your mixtape meets the definition of an album set out above, then yes. But if the mixtape is a compilation of artists, or contains previously released tracks, or is all covers of someone else's material, then no.

Are remixes eligible for FACTOR support?

Remixes could be supported under the Artist Development program, and FACTOR would support the creation of remixes as part of a marketing campaign for an original album created under one of the full-length sound recording programs. FACTOR will not support an album of remixes as a full-length sound recording project.

Will FACTOR fund a sound recording built on a dubplate or on a beat or riddim released by another artist?

Yes, but you must acquire the exclusive rights to the dubplate or the beat, so that it can be released/sold without restrictions.

Are these costs eligible for FACTOR reimbursement?

- Dubplates, specials – Yes, in a marketing budget, but only if it is exclusive.
- DJ drops/IDs for DJ servicing – Yes, in a marketing budget
- Samples and loops – Yes, but only the samples or loops you specifically use in the track, and you must acquire the exclusive rights necessary to commercially release the track. FACTOR will not reimburse the cost of sample or loop libraries.
- Beats and backing tracks – Yes, but only if you acquire the exclusive rights necessary to commercially release the track without restriction.
- Buy-on fees – No.
- Top line writers – No. FACTOR does not reimburse any songwriter fees or advances.
- Featured vocalists and guest musicians – Yes.
- DAW software – No. FACTOR does not reimburse costs for any equipment that you buy, these are called “capital costs” and are not eligible for FACTOR.
- Computer hardware - No, FACTOR deems these to be capital costs.

Please note: For FACTOR reimbursement, your funds are expected to be spent on goods and services in Canada/by Canadians. Please ask FACTOR in advance for permission to spend your funding on non-Canadian goods or services.

How do I clear samples?

When you buy samples from a sample library or a sample provider, they should have already administered the clearance process. If you are sampling from a piece of recorded music, you will need to track down (a) who owns or controls the sound recording master, typically a record label – sometimes identified by the (p) notice in the album credit; and (b) who owns or controls the rights in the underlying composition, typically a publisher (the publishing notice is the (c) credit.) You can also try to find the publishing owners through SOCAN or the CMRRA database. Then you need to negotiate a sample fee from both parties. It is a complicated process, so you might consider using a lawyer.

How do I prove that I “own or control” 100% of the underlying rights in any loops, beats, samples that I buy?

You should always get it in writing. Anything you buy from a library or service should provide the documentation at the time of purchase. Alternately, having a lawyer prepare the paperwork might be a good idea.